

provide funding for basic wheat research. There may be some areas where there is a blending of research funding in those particular research items that would apply equally and equitably to various commodities, such as corn and grain sorghum which somewhat parallel each other in agronomical processes. But to expand the use of specifically earmarked farmer money directed originally, and I think in the minds of the people out there, to an area which is a good area for research, a necessary area for research, but I feel it's outside of the scope of the use of the targeted... earmark development funds. I think that we need tax research in Nebraska. I think it needs to be funded by us in the General Funds. It is of benefit to all of Nebraska to make sure that we have an equitable, an equitable method of taxing, be it property, sales, income or whatever. I think that the Smith amendment would probably be to the best interests of the State of Nebraska and, most certainly, many of us in agriculture were that to be adopted to the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schmit, on the Smith amendment.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Mr. President and members, if you want to go back to the original intent of the checkoff language, then I would suggest you go back to the original intent of LB 1230. The intent of that bill, ladies and gentlemen, and the reason for which we extracted one and one-half cents from all corn, sorghum, wheat in the State of Nebraska was to build alcohol plants, not to build a food processing center for the University of Nebraska. And there is a very good chance that there might be 40 or 50,000 farmers out there who might have thought differently about the checkoff had they known we were going to divert one-fourth or one-third of it to the University of Nebraska. This fund, this \$15 million, will attract the highest class thieves in the State of Nebraska. I really don't care if they build a plant or not, but I do not want to be the only entity that funds it from the Ethanol Authority. Now, relative to tax research, this afternoon we spent most of the afternoon and we spent most of last week and we will spend most of the remaining 10 days chasing our tail trying to decide about a tax research or about tax policy. And Senator Warner and Senator Coorsen, both of them agriculturally oriented people, say this isn't the way to get the money. Read the letter, ladies and gentlemen, that I sent to Mr. Hutchins on January 13th, and I can send you copies of letters I wrote to farm organizations earlier requesting them to fund some tax research. Ladies and gentlemen, the farm organizations don't fund tax research.